

Message Text

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SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

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SUBJECT: 28TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

1. OVER 136 MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATED IN A BUSY, FRUITFUL, BUT AT TIMES DISJOINTED 28TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY. AS THE SAME TIME, IN SOME RESPECTS MORE POLITICAL THAN PREVIOUS SESSIONS. IN OTHERS, I.E., ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES, IT WAS LESS SO. PARTICIPATION BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS MORE INTENSE, MEANINGFUL AND SERVED NOTICE THAT HEREAFTER THEIRS WOULD BE THE DOMINATING VOICE WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. STILL SOMEWHAT OVERAWED BY THE ENORMITY OF THEIR HEALTH PROBLEMS, THE DIFFICULTIES OF DELIVERING HEALTH SERVICES TO THEIR POPULATIONS AND THEIR RELATIVE UNSOPHISTICATION IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE VIS-A-VIS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE SECRETARIAT, THEIR MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF DOMINATING THE SITUATION WERE TENTATIVE BUT PLAIN TO SEE. YUGOSLAVIA ATTEMPTED BE LEADER AMONG DC'S BUT THEY FALTERED AT TIMES THROUGH MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE TECHNIQUES OF THE ORGANIZATION'S ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET.

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SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF THE DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES FALTERED IN THEIR INSISTENCE ON INTRODUCING DISARMAMENT INTO RESOLUTIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUBSEQUENT VITRIOLIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND SOVIETS CLEARLY EMBARRASSED THOSE WHOM THE SOVIETS WERE ALLEGEDLY SEEKING TO HELP. THE PRC CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE RISING IN WRATH ONLY TO ATTACK SOVIET "RUBBISH" ON DISARMAMENT AND MAKING A CONSTRUCTIVE INTERVENTION ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS. THE TWO VIET-NAMS CONDUCTED THEMSELVES CORRECTLY AND AS BEFITS NEW BOYS LISTENED MORE THAN THEY SPOKE. THEIR INTERVENTIONS EARLY IN THE ASSEMBLY WERE RESTRAINED AND GAVE CREDIT TO NO OTHER POWER FOR THE "LIBERATION" OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. WHILE CLUTTERED WITH PIOUS PHRASES ABOUT "HEROIC STRUGGLE", MOST STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE ADMISSION OF NORTH VIET-NAM WERE RESTRAINED. ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE ALTHOUGH RESULTING IN A CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL WAS CONDUCTED IN A LOWER KEY THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. WEO DELEGATIONS APPEARED TO HAVE LOST THEIR WILL TO RESIST (FRANCE PERMITTING ITSELF TO BE RIDDEN OUT OF THE AFRICAN REGION ON A RAIL WITH ONLY A MINOR PROTEST THAT IT WAS NO LONGER "A COLONIAL POWER" AND THIS ONLY AFTER THE ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN) BEING CONTENT TO ABSTAIN QUIETLY OR GO ALONG WITH ISSUES THAT TOUCHED ON GOOD MANAGEMENT OR OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES. UK REP PARROTT IN COMMITTEE B PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE.

2. USDEL MAINTAINED A POSTURE OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE AGENDA ITEMS AND IN BILATERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS BOTH IN AND OUT OF FORMAL MEETINGS. DEL INDICATED THAT IF PUT TO VOTE WE WOULD VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTIONS ON AID TO INDO-CHINA, AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH INCLUDED DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AND OTHERS. WE TOOK THE POSITION THAT THESE RESOLUTIONS GREATLY COMPLICATED THE DG'S ATTEMPTS AT ORDERLY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT, INTRODUCED POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH WERE NOT GERMANE TO WHO CONSIDERATIONS, AND THAT THEY VIOLATED ACCEPTED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES OF THE ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS GIVING PROGRAMMATIC AND PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CEDURAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN AN UNACCEPTABLE MANNER. FAVORABLE RESOLUTION ON ALL SUBJECTS OF INTENT TO US, E.G. SCHISTO, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, DRUG DEPENDENCE AND FLUORIDATION WERE PASSED.

3. IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE AFRICANS, SPOKE UP ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS IN A MORE FRANK WAY THAN THEY HAVE DONE BEFORE. THE

RESPONSE TO OUR INITIATIVE ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS WAS GRATIFYING WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS INCLUDING THAT OF THE PRC MAKING POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISCUSSIONS. DEVELOPING COUNTRY VIEWS, TOO, LARGELY INFLUENCED THE DEBATE ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND CONDITIONED THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED WHICH FORETELLS SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE WAY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND MEMBER STATES WILL GO ABOUT FINDING THE MEANS OF DELIVERING THIS CARE TO SOME 80 PERCENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPULATIONS WHICH DO NOT NOW RECEIVE IT. THE ALARM WAS SOUNDED THAT MALARIA REMAINS AND IS INCREASING AS A MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM TO WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD REDIRECT ITS EFFORTS.

4. SIGNIFICANT CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF THE ORGANIZATION DOING BUSINESS IN THESE DAYS OF INFLATION AND CURRENCY REALIGNMENT. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, ONLY TURKEY AND THE EASTERN EUROPEANS WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS, POLAND AND MONGOLIA ABSTAINING, VOTED AGAINST THE BUDGET FOR 1976. THE FRG, FRANCE, ITALY ABSTAINED. IN GENERAL MAHLER GOT A CLEAR-CUT MANDATE FOR THE WAY HIS IS ORIENTING THE ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES AND FOR PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT. THE U.S. AND UK ELICITED FROM HIM FOR THE RECORD A STATEMENT THAT IF THE EXCHANGE RATE AVERAGES ABOVE 2.51 SWISS FRANCS TO THE DOLLAR IN '76, SAVINGS WOULD BE PUT IN THE MISCELLANEOUS INCOME ACCOUNT AND COULD NOT BE USED FOR PROGRAM UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OR THE ASSEMBLY. IN GENERAL THE NEW MORE ACTIVE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS APPROVED AND WITH 6 NEW MEMBERS INCLUDING 3 FROM AFRICA (SWAZILAND, TOGO AND TANZANIA), 1 FROM THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (SUDAN), 1 FROM THE ESTERN PACIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGION (JAPAN) AND 1 FROM THE AMERICAS (GUYANA), THE BOARD MAY ACQUIRE A NEW PERSONALITY. AS A RESULT OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN UNHAPPINESS OVER NOT GETTING AN ADDITIONAL SEAT, THE ASSEMBLY HAS ASKED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO STUDY AND SUGGEST AN AMENDMENT TO THE 29TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY FOR ANOTHER MINIMAL INCREASE IN THE BOARD. COMMENT: THE PRESSURES FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD WILL NO DOUBT INCREASE IN THE YEARS JUST AHEAD. THEY CLEARLY NEED TO PERCEIVE THEMSELVES AS PLAYING THE MAJOR ROLE IN DETERMINING THE PROGRAM OF THE ORGANIZATION. UNTIL THEY GAIN EXPERIENCE AND MATURITY IN THIS ROLE THERE WILL BE CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS FOR WHICH USDELS MUST BE PREPARED. A CONSTRUCTIVE LOW-KEY POSTURE GUIDING THEIR INCLINATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP IN POSITIVE

DIRECTIONS MAY BE THE BEST STRATEGY DURING THIS
ADJUSTMENT PERIOD.

CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY US HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS RECEIVED FAVORABLE COMMENTS
FROM MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS
MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT. MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPS
INCLUDING AFRICANS CRITICAL OF AMOUNT OF "POLITICS"
INJECTED INTO WHA DISCUSSIONS BUT FAIL TO SEE MOTE
IN THEIR OWN EYE, I.E. PUSHING SPECIAL INTEREST
RESOLUTIONS ON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, NEW ECONOMIC
ORDER, ETC. IN DEL VIEW QUIET BUT SERIOUS PROFESSIONAL
INPUT DESIGNED TO PASS ALONG TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
OUR BEST INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY WILL GAIN US MORE
THAN THE LARGELY PROPAGANDISTIC RESOLUTIONS OF THE
KIND SOVIETS AIMED AT DC'S AT THIS SESSION. END COMMENT.
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